



VIRGINIA
ASIAN
ADVISORY
BOARD

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Virginia Tech Northern VA Center



VIRGINIA
ASIAN
ADVISORY
BOARD

Location (in person):
Virginia Tech Northern VA Center
7054 Haycock Rd, Falls Church, VA 22043

6-15-2023

Virtual Meeting Details:

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1611668387?pwd=MEJTWjMyUzlTVzlPWk82Y2dpaVliUT09>

Meeting ID: 161 166 8387

Passcode: 574678

Dial by your location

+1 551 285 1373 US

Board Members:

Dr. Melody Abisit

Ms. Suja Amir

Ms. Laura Beldin

Ms. Lisa Chen

Mr. Paul Chhabra

Ms. Rowena Finn

Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick

Dr. Nina Ha

Mr. Razi Hashmi

Mr. Justin Lo

Ms. Salinna Lor

Mr. Boa (Bobby) Ly

Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan

Ms. Carla Okouchi

Dr. Marie Sankaran Raval

Ms. Ssunny Shah

Professor Da L. "Linda" Sheth

Ms. Quan Schneider

Mr. Jewan "Jack Jewan" Tiwawri

Mr. Pient Tran

Mr. Henry Yuan

In-Person Attendance:

Virginia Asian Advisory Board Members: Ms. Suja Amir (Chair); Mr. Justin Lo (Vice-Chair); Dr. Nina Ha (Secretary); Mr. Henry Yuan; Mr. Boa (Bobby) Ly; Mr. Jewan "Jack Jewan" Tiwawri; Mr. Paul Chhabra; Ms.



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Laura Beldin; Ms. Carla Okouchi; Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan; Mr. Razi Hashmi; Ms. Salinna Lor; Ms. Rowena Finn

In Attendance Virtual

Virginia Asian Advisory Board Members: Ms. Lisa Chen; Ms. Quan Schneider; Professor Da L. "Linda" Sheth; Sunny Shah

Governor's Office Staff: Ms. Suzanne Holland (Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration); Justin Bell (Virtual), Rosa Atkins (Virtual), Michael Perez (Virtual)

Lyons Sanchez (Chair of LatinX Advisory Board)

Lunch will be available for board members starting at 12:00pm

12:47 p.m. Welcome

Suja Amir
Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Call to Order: Carla; Second Justin

Meeting Overview

Call to allow members who join virtually to vote: Justin Lo

Second: Laura Beldin

All in favor: Yes

1:45 p.m. March Meeting Minutes Approval
One abstention: Jewan Tiwarwri

Nina Ha

June Meeting Agenda Adoption
All in favor of adopting agenda

Secretary, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Confirm earlier vote for all

Move to confirm all of the votes now with a quorum: Justin

First: Suja

Second: Laura

12:40 p.m. Board Administration Update

Suzanne Holland
Director of Advisory Board Administration

Travel Reimbursement Vouchers

Open up space about the vouchers and the process

Virginia Advisory Board Reimbursement Voucher Policy



Prefer hard copies

Digital Copies: Send to personal e-mail and gov e-mail. Make sure the scans are legible.

Thanks to Dr. Kenneth Wong for coordinating and opening VT's campus to VAAB

Any issues, please ask and reach out.

There are two people who are responsible for travel and approval as well as for all the Governor's office business.

One of the documents: Committee meetings best practices FAQ. Informal guide. Why and how to set up committee meetings. Make sure to read the document.

There are times that people can meet one-on-one, set up documents, etc. There will also be times when having committee meetings might be a good practice. There are guidelines for setting up committee meetings.

General questions about how the board conducts business?

Justin Lo: Until June 30th, virtual meetings are still allowed. Will there be an extension allowed after the deadline?

Suzanne: Allowance for virtual meetings goes away on June 30th. HB 44 - Law - Virtual meeting allowances: Create virtual exceptions. Committee meetings (Quorum has to be in person); Majority has to be in person for committee meetings.

Justin Bell: Best practices will be issued by FOIA Council; Previous budget information expires June 30th.

Carla: Given the rise of Covid spread, will the Government provide clean air and ways to stay safe?

J. Bell: Only the Governor has the ability/discretion to declare a state of emergency for health issues. He can reactivate all virtual provision. This can only happen through the Governor.

Justin Lo: Follow up- reimbursement policy. Does the reimbursement policy apply to in-person policy?

Suzanne: Board members may be entitled for reimbursement with respect to Board business. Governor prioritizes having presence state-wide.

J. Bell: Come up with a plan and give estimate for understanding with Secretary of Commonwealth about on-site meetings.

Suzanne: How does the board provide feedback to FOIA board members regarding holding virtual and in-person meetings?

This is appointment season. A lot of Board members' terms end June 30th. If your term is coming up next year, should you seek re-appointment, you need to re-apply through the official channels. Look at other boards as well. Get colleagues and community members to apply as well.



Justin Bell: Some FOIA Council meetings have already occurred. HB 444, Instructions of how to apply the law. Contact any groups or the FOIA Council itself to provide feedback about concerns regarding virtual meetings.

Justin Lo: Could VAAB invite FOIA Council members to attend meetings to answer questions or discuss issues/concerns.

Justin Bell: Could set up a committee meeting.

Justin Lo: Call Cross Board meeting with FOIA

1:15 p.m. Administration Update:
*Office of Diversity, Opportunity and
Inclusion*

Michael Perez, Special Assistant

Connect every individual within the Commonwealth.
Get to meet everyone.
Looking forward to meeting with VAAB.
Will send e-mail over the chat.
Possibilities to partner and collaborate

Have been hosting AAPI business roundtables (Henrico), women's entrepreneurship; work with Chambers of Commerce;

Rowena: How have you been communicating this information? Is there a list for what you have done?

May 4: Asian Society -

May 9: Cafe in Annandale (Sec. of Education

May 17: Business Roundtable (Central VA Chamber of Commerce)

Did share information with different partnerships and Agencies?

Suja: Is there a way to get contacted for events?

(*Ask Suzanne for contact)

How can we help you diversify your outreach to the multiple AAPI communities?

Perez: Happy to follow up with other Board members.

Suja: Does Rosa Atkins have updates regarding the Office?

Perez: Regretfully not to participate in person. Intention to attend Board meetings. Introduce themselves and follow up. How do they best utilize the board?

Mother is of Japanese descent.



Relatively new agency.

Approach angle of opportunity and entrepreneurship.

Suja: The VAAB has provided Reports and hope that the Office will review the Reports. What can the VAAB continue to do to advise the Governor?

Perez: Has been able to look at the Report. Commonalities across the Boards: Access to services, access to education, access to materials like language translation. Informs Dr. Atkins about recommendations. Utilize institutional knowledge. Will be planning to attend in-person next meeting.

Justin Lo: Wanted to know the Office appointed to Office of New Americans regarding a Senior Policy Advisor. (Perez: Does not know if there is a person now.)

Suzanne: Moving forward with Language Access Initiative; Education Standards Report

Perez: Language access accessibility; Make sure that individuals have access to resources; Work with different Agencies of the Commonwealth; Thinking about ways the government best place to live and raise the family

Suzanne: Some of the timelines didn't have intentional structures to maximize Board participation. Board members are willing to show up in different communities and regions.

Suja: If there's transparent communication, then Board members can share information with community members and networks.

Carla: Education Standards; Covid seems to be peaking now, along with Monkeypox: Workplace quality standards? What is the government doing? Has the government been talking to the Health Department? Equity and Access; Gun violence; Health safety?

Perez: Impact on entrepreneurship/education; Conducting Listening Sessions. Implement best practices.

1:34 p.m. Chair's Report

Suja Amir

Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Updates:

Sent an e-mail about Melody

Bobby Ly: Unofficial Social Coordinator for this evening

On June 6th, the Secretary of Commonwealth invited all the Board Chairs to a Lunch. Interested in wanting to work with the Board. Wants a list of things for them to work on. Have an opportunity to inform the Governor about what the challenges and issues are. What are some reactions regarding transitioning from one Administration to the next. Response, we're all professionals. Our goal is to support and advocate for our AAPI communities.



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Suzanne: Mix of emotions: Some Chairs want to work in the Board.

Challenge: Accountability. Why do the Boards do this work if there is no mechanism that recommendations aren't implemented? What is the level of engagement with the Boards and with the Administration.

Secretary wants a dialogue.

Suja: Have an opportunity to uplift the AAPI community. Secretary wants to meet regularly.

Bobby Ly: Suzanne mentioned accountability. Works both ways. We work hard on the annual report and present to the Governor. Has yet to see any action on the Governor's end. Does the Governor do anything with the Annual Report?

Suja: Letter that was sent by Suja and Justin re: public safety initiatives. CJ mentioned Violence Prevention Task Force. Having discussions with public safety. When we have opportunities, we should take advantage of uplifting voice of community.

Lyons Sanchez (Chair of Latino Advisory Board): Echo some things that have been said. In ways, the transition has been still happening. If there are two or three big recommendations, bring them up. Process is the Annual Report. Improving the process of the Annual Report. Health Committee Recommendations were sent to Secretary of Health. Secretariats are ex-officio members of the board. Inviting different Secretaries and Cabinet members to join meetings. How to present Report to the Governor and the Cabinet. We are appointees of the former Governor. Board members will change.

Suja: All Boards have similar issues. Uplift voices collectively.

Suzanne: Accountability: Set goals as Board Administrator. How to improve the processes. How do we get active feedback?

Recommendation: Interim Report

Have Governor's members attend Committee meetings. Getting active feedback from someone from the Governor's administration.

Bobby: A lot of the time, the same topics are in the Annual Report. Would like guidance from the Governor's Administration. Where is the direction of the Governor's Office? What is on the Governor's Agenda? What is the Administration focused on and how can the VAAB pivot?

Suja: Administration is still trying to figure out what is important. How do we work together?

Justin: We made a recommendation about virtual committee meetings. Why were VAAB members not invited to attend the FOIA meetings because they determine meetings?

Suja: VAAB are not being heard. We don't get invited to events put forth by the Administration.

Bobby: "If we invite you, then we have to invite everyone." We work hard on the Annual Reports. Suggest to the VAAB what is their direction. This Administration focuses on business and small businesses. We have no direction. it's about accountability. We want to know if someone is going to do something.



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Bobby/Suja/Rowena conversation: Have a contact with the Chair of the Board to have a liaison. There are 300 Boards. Some topics are similar with others. However, there are distinct aspects of certain communities. This new Administration is looking for new ways. What are the new priorities? We need to understand the Administration's direction.

Suzanne: Listening Sessions: Public Engagements; How does Board voice concerns?

Justin Lo: Virtual meetings - First Board to make recommendations for virtual meetings. VAAB is one of the major stakeholders regarding virtual meetings.

2:05 p.m. Dr. Rosa Atkins (Chief Diversity Officer - DEOI Office)
Addressing the VAAB

Listening to the Boards

Direction: Want to feel that VAAB is being heard and that the recommendations are being taken

Not official or ex-officio members of all the Boards

Role is one of the Listening Partners/Thought Partner

Hear and respond to the Board

Support the Board

Try to be part of many Board meetings as possible.

If they are not attending meetings, it's not that they aren't being supportive.

Focus: Expansion of Entrepreneurship and Economic Opportunities

Promotion of Free Speech

Inclusive Civil Discourse - Diverse opinions and points of view are included

Promoting in the Honest and Complete History

Facilitate bringing Virginians of different faiths

Eliminate disparities in prenatal care

Ambassador of unborn children

Working on statutory duties

Each agency has a plan to attract diverse pool of candidates; Provide professional development of opportunities.

Rowena: Including Asian American Studies in the classes.

Atkins: Department of Education is undertaking curriculum of History and Social Sciences. Events will be taking place to on incorporating History and Social Science.

Dr. Atkins provided data about teacher vacancy.

Salinna Lor: Curious about free speech

Atkins: Free Speech. There are varying opinions about race and "hot button" issues - Want classroom to be strong learning environments. Spend time to have students be well versed in topics. Not dictate what people should believe. Valuing differences - give tools to students to decide / Engage in meaningful dialogue



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Free Speech and Civil Discourse:

Established processes and cultures that all students can engage and debate with one another. Have skillset to listen to different opinions.

2:20 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Committee Breakouts
Drafting recommendations

Business & Trade
Civic Engagement
Education
Health

3:00 p.m. Presentation:
VT Innovation Campus

Dr. Kenneth Wong
Associate Dean and Director
Virginia Tech Graduate School

VT in the DC Area
Background: Medical Physics/Bioengineering
6,800 graduate students
1,000 based in NOVA
Programs are designed around professionals
Active research presence now before it was open about 20 years ago.
UVA presence has changed overtime. Center in Falls Church is all VT
NCR Campuses: Falls Church/Alexandria/Arlington/Innovation Campus
Manassas/Leesburg (Equine)/DC Children's Medical Hospital

15,000 Hokie Alum
65,000 Hokie Alum in D.C. area

400 faculty and staff in NOVA - Business Program/College of Architecture and Urban Studies/Engineering

Area in the beltway:
Education Program: Education Leaders - 30% of Education leaders in VA graduate from VT Education Program

Arlington: Integrating security
Architecture Center located in Old Town Alexandria

Overview: Most classes and graduate programs is offered in Falls Church; Falls Church campus will close in 2024



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Some programs will be relocated back to Blacksburg or may close.

VT-Arlington focused: National Security and School of Public and International Affairs.
New National Institute
Cybersecurity

WA-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC) - experiential learning - undergraduate and graduate students
Small community. Residence Hall

Innovation Campus: Scheduled to open 2024

Focused on computer science and computer engineering, with focal areas in AI/ML, Quange Science, and NextG wireless. Focus is evolving.

<https://vt.edu/innovationcampus/index.html>

Designed to be a different institution. Wants to be most diverse workforce.

How to work with VAAB?

Graduate quotas: Funding/Tuition remission/Scholarships

Boeing made a large gift to the university to support scholarships

Goal to bring people in to represent diverse backgrounds

Make scholarships available for people whose educational backgrounds were not in Computer Science

Henry: How do you coordinate with VT Blacksburg campus and other universities?

Kenneth: Have links to corporations. Taking infrastructure to extend to NOVA
Link/License/Launch

Most potential for growth: Entrepreneurship and how to support it (most focus on undergraduates)

Working with Mason (Needs to do a better job with making more collaborations) - Commonwealth Cyber Initiative. Mason is taking the lead.

Suja: Son is interested in CS. How do you target high school students? How do you help support VT and attract students at the university?

Kenneth: Many programs operate in Blacksburg. Laboratory that is focused on Middle School. What are VA's workforce needs? Wanting to have more interactions with school students.

School of Education (Tracking alumni)

Laura Beldin: Bank of America has worked with UVA to conduct case studies to track business owners and assist businesses

Kenneth: Apex Center for Entrepreneurship - VT will be open to working with Bank of America



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**3:31 p.m. Committee Reports and
Board Discussion:**
Compiling report sections

Justin Lo
Vice Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Civic Engagement Committee (Justin Lo)

Hosted two public forums

Public Safety Meetings

Using this committee to host a public forum on Public Safety. Invited Officer Hoonsan and other members.

Tom Fitzpatrick was the moderator

One topic: Hate incidents

A lot of reporting on Hate incidents has to start at the local level

Needs to be flagged at a potential Hate Incidents

Take away; Important for officers to flag hate incidents. Officers need to be trained into what is a hate incident.

Second Forum:

VA's New American Committee

Invited VCU professor to produce a survey to study what the issues were for new Americans.

Justin moderated the session

Key Takeaways: What constitutes the needs of New Americans depends on what constitutes a new American. Can't generalize on what the needs are of New Americans.

Linguistic integration

Health Access

Heard from ONA and members, there's a lot of funding to support refugee side but the immigrant side is underfunded. Find ways to support immigrant side.

Planning to set a timeframe - Conference AAPI representation in Government (sometime in September)

Judicial Representation

AAPI in Legislature

Executive Appointees

Last Public Forum: Issue came up: Individual attended the meeting and shouted expletives at the VCU professor and typed comments. Had a Zoombomber. Incident was reported. VAAB event wasn't the only one being Zoombombed. Wasn't sure if this person was associated with a Hate Group. LGBTQ Advisory Board had a number of individuals were targeted. Images were changed. Governor addressed the incident. Not an isolated incident. Might potentially happen again.

Suja: Spoke with Officer Hoosan. Wasn't sure about jurisdictional issues since it was in Zoom.

Justin: Most people were based in Richmond.



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Suzanne: This event was recorded. Changed the way we conducted our virtual meetings. Wasn't a committee meeting. Wanted to create levels of security, especially virtually. Attorney General's office was notified. There may need to be virtual guidelines for those who violate code of conduct. What are some suggestions? We can use the tool to better control meetings.

Justin: Would these people interrupt in-person meetings as they have in virtual meetings?

Suja: We need to pay attention to our surroundings. Good thing is that this incident was reported. Our communities need to know how to report incidents.

Bobby: Because this is a public meeting, can someone say it's "freedom of speech" when at a public meeting?

Justin Bell: Working out what the rules are for security versus freedom.

If someone comes in and has a t-shirt with a swastika on their shirt. If you call for a public comment, you can't kick them out. If it's not public comment and they are interrupting and causing general disorder, then you can kick them out. It's more complicated when it comes to being in person. Open to the public doesn't mean that there are no rules. Can have screening for additional layer of security.

Instead of hosting a public meeting at a coffee shop, conduct them at local government centers or spaces where people are aware of what is going on. Involve building security. Contact public safety ahead of the meeting.

Razi: Tangentially related, we're talking about overall protection.

Linda (Da Lin): What happened on Zoom is particular to a Zoom format. We have to think harder about how to monitor virtual meetings. Doesn't quite translate to in-person meetings.

Rowena: Does the VAAB want to have security?

Suzanne/Justin Bell: We can request state police for security. We can have parameters about how security works or where they are stationed. Is the on-site security sufficient? Remain vigilant. Be thoughtful. Have someone to call and would be there in two minutes. Need to take security into consideration.

Education: Carla

We had two meetings. Second Meeting:

1. Aspiring educator join Committee Meeting. Representation does matter. Impress upon us that there is a need for diversity in the classroom; need for mentorship; increasing AAPIs in the classroom. How do we market teaching to AAPI community?
2. Individual was Special Ed teacher. There are a lot of teachers leaving the profession because they don't feel safe. Only a few schools who are offering Virtual Academies. Virtual schools have transitioned from crisis teaching to best practices of teaching and learning. Need to have virtual learning in place.
3. Arts Coalition Education. Fine and Performing Arts Programs were impacted the most during Covid. It took a toll on these Programs. Educators and students need to be safe.
4. We had Public Comments Section: Professor to talk about lack of opportunities and biases of AAPI students. Discrepancies of women in STEM.
5. Student shared that there are racist materials in Theater Arts Programs.



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6. Another parent who is an advocate for Arts. There are children who struggle in Math and find their voice in the Arts.
 7. Need to help parents navigate the educational system.
 8. Want to continue Real Talk.

We reached out to networks to have people attend for Public Comments.

Justin Lo: How can we get community members attend our committee meetings?

Carla: Mentor those who are new to the board. Rotating responsibilities. Have someone else from the board to give time. Utilize own networks.

Suja: Teacher programs/Virtual Academies - How many people are interested and using?

Carla: We lost a lot of students during the pandemic. Are schools safe learning environments? Don't have numbers.

Health Committee - Salinna Lor
Gun Violence
Covid
Workforce
Behavioral Health

Suja: Marie met with Suja. Have Senators Warner or Kaine to discuss gun violence at next meeting.

Carla: Mental Health was raised in Education.

Suja: There is a significant shortage of AAPI health professionals. Find solutions to increase the workforce. Open up more residency programs. We need to think about what is going to help. Physician level: Can't fast track medical school. Clinical Psychology Program - 5 year program. What are some solutions? Accreditation challenges. How do we fix structural issues and fill that need? Can't overburden people who are there. Counselors are not represented in AAPI. Psychiatrists are medication management. Not have research presented in major medical journals.

Getting people to attend meetings. Sharing events to networks.

In our communities, Civic Engagement is an issue.

Business and Trade: Praveen

Move ahead on two parallel tracks:

Comms piece: Small Businesses Summer - AAPI businesses doesn't mean just own restaurants or nail salons. Recommend small businesses to others.

Informational businesses on SWAM businesses. Tagged businesses. Translation services. Challenges of providing translational services. Who are approved translators. Registering AAPI businesses as SWAM.



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Have subcommittees. Uplifting AAPI businesses.

Small actionable items. What revenues can be produced to the Commonwealth?

Bobby: Lots of things coming out of the Governor's Office, they are picky about who are the translators. Make a recommendation to have applications for language translation. Some of the business owners are deterred from applying due to language barriers.

Application process can be cumbersome. Instructions should be translated, even though the uploaded documents would have to be in English.

Suzanne: SBSB website

Frustration: Not being able to take action.

Praveen: Could we create a guide or is it better to have a paid official or have an agency work on documents?

Bobby: There are small businesses in VA. However, not all of these business owners have the information regarding applying for SWAM.

Outreach is one of the biggest problems.

Suja:

Final Report is coming up.

4:33 p.m. Public Comment

Suja

**4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements
Adjournment**

Suja Amir
Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Bobby: Vote for next meeting location

August 19th is the next meeting

Next Meeting is in Northern VA

Motion to adjourn: Yes, unanimous

Additional Announcements & Notes:



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- Informal Board social convening at Eden Center following the meeting at 5:30pm
*location subject to change based on member input during meeting
 - **Next VAAB Meeting:**
 - August 19th – Northern VA
 - *AAPI Heritage Month reception has been delayed to a later date in the year
 -
 - **Next Committee Meetings:** TBD; virtual – scheduled at Committee Chair request
 - **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - March-June: Drafting committee report sections; gathering data to support recs; meeting with agency/expert informers; getting ready to compile recs into report document
 - **Board Website:** [VAAB.Virginia.Gov](https://vaab.virginia.gov)
 - **Board Email:** VAAB@Governor.Virginia.Gov
-

VAAB Member Lunch provided by:

Moby Dick House of Kabob – an EVA registered SWaM business

444 W Broad St suite A, Falls Church, VA 22046

<https://www.mobyskabob.com/>

*Special thanks to the staff at Virginia Tech Northern VA Campus for their support and accommodation of this meeting of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board.